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Chair: Mr. Biang ..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/73/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/73/L.1).

2. Referring to agenda item 79, "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", he said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/112, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Molefe (South Africa), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 87, "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/120, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Ms. Duncan Villalobos (Costa Rica) and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to item 111, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/123, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka), with a view to finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee's work, contained in paragraphs 4 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat (A/C.6/73/L.1), and to the revised overall work programme of the Committee, circulated to delegations before the opening of the session. In accordance with established practice, the proposed work programme would be applied with flexibility in the light of the progress made by the Committee, which would take action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. He encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to use the e-deleGATE portal to circulate texts of draft resolutions as early as possible and to submit them for processing in good time, preferably no later than one week after the completion of the debate of the Committee on each item or the completion of the work of the relevant working group, as the case might be. The taking of action on draft resolutions would always be announced, in advance, in the *Journal of the United Nations*. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** said that the Committee must allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. In that connection, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 30 October 2018, except for draft resolutions relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of the conference resources and facilities made available to it, in particular by beginning its meetings on time. He took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to representatives of regional groups or other groups of States; it was also understood that delegations that were aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States should, where possible, focus additional interventions on points that had not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** said that the Committee would continue to use the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Delegations were therefore encouraged to rely on the electronic versions of official documents, as the traditional hard copy distribution of documents and statements had been discontinued. Delegations were asked to send electronic copies of their statements to the PaperSmart team for uploading to the PaperSmart portal and to provide 30 hard copies of their statements for the technical services. The PaperSmart portal would be

updated on a daily basis with information on forthcoming meetings.

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/73/125)

15. **The Chair** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/73/125), the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 (A/68/37) and the oral report by the Chair of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, contained in document A/C.6/72/SR.28.

16. **Mr. Nasimfar** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally condemned the crime of terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorist acts were a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security, and had adverse consequences for economic and social development.

17. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling of suspects and intrusion on privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned.

18. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should themselves refrain from encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and supplying weapons which could be used for that purpose.

19. The Non-Aligned Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism. It also firmly rejected the unilateral elaboration of lists accusing States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism. States should also refuse to provide political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status.

20. The Movement expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and emphasized the need for States to address the issue, including through the fulfilment of their international obligations. In that connection, it called on the United Nations to facilitate capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, upon request, in addressing the problem. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the 13 international instruments on combating terrorism and should implement the provisions of all international, regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which they were parties. The Movement was also deeply concerned at the terrorist groups' misrepresentation of religions to justify terrorism and violent extremism. It was essential to address terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner, including by engaging with community leaders and clerics of all denominations. The Movement strongly condemned the practice of hostage-taking for the purpose of demanding ransom or gaining political concessions and called on all States to cooperate actively in addressing the problem.

21. All States should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law and their obligations under international law. The Non-Aligned Movement called on the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures by making the position of the Ombudsperson independent, transparent and permanent.

22. The Movement reiterated its call for a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized and, to that end, States should cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Member States' primary responsibility for its implementation, including through cooperation with the United Nations Office of

Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should help to bring greater coherence and effectiveness to United Nations counter-terrorism activities, in particular by addressing upon request Member States' capacity-building needs through assistance tailored to the specific realities of the States concerned, taking into account the centrality of national ownership. The Movement welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018 and looked forward to similar meetings being convened, following consultation with Member States.

23. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. More than ever, terrorism represented a serious threat to States, as it endangered social structures, regional stability and global security.

24. It was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, which included prolonged unresolved conflicts, discrimination, dehumanization of victims, weakening of the rule of law, human rights violations and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism could not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It was therefore important to foster a culture of peace, condemn all forms of discrimination and promote respect for cultural, religious and political diversity. CELAC was deeply concerned about the rise in recruitment to terrorist groups and for that reason continued to attach importance to the promotion of inclusion with a view to dispelling stereotypes that associated terrorism with specific cultures, religious groups or ethnic groups and rejecting xenophobia and prejudice. Responses to the refugee crisis should reduce rather than increase the risk associated with violent extremism.

25. Measures to combat terrorism must always be in strict compliance with international law, as emphasized in General Assembly resolution 72/180 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Action taken outside that framework was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable. The resolution also underscored the right to privacy, which was a fundamental component of human dignity. CELAC was concerned that State surveillance and the illegal interception of communications, often from abroad, could affect the exercise of human rights. CELAC reaffirmed that a national criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees was one of the best means of effectively combating terrorism and ensuring accountability. It continued to reject unilateral blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism; they were incompatible with international law and should be discontinued.

26. The Latin American and Caribbean region itself had fallen victim to terrorist acts. The Community strongly condemned such attacks and the circumstances that had enabled those responsible to evade justice. All States should comply without delay with their obligations under international law and cooperate actively in order to bring perpetrators to justice and avoid impunity.

27. The Community recognized the steps taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities to arrive at fairer and clearer procedures for imposing sanctions. The role of the Ombudsperson had made the delisting procedure more equitable and transparent. In order to ensure due process, the position of Ombudsperson should be made independent and permanent. CELAC looked forward to the status report of the Secretary-General on progress in strengthening the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsperson. Ombudspersons should also be appointed for all the other Security Council sanctions regimes, in view of their role in strengthening the rule of law. Sanctions should not be an end in themselves; they were part of a broader strategy aimed at finding peaceful and political solutions.

28. The Community emphasized the need to safeguard humanitarian work and expressed concern at recent violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of drones. It was also concerned at the increasing number of letters sent to the Security Council pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations — most often after the fact — with a view to using force to combat terrorism. The use of force in a manner inconsistent with the Charter was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable. Consideration should be given to the possibility of convening an open and transparent debate on the topic.

29. There was a need to strengthen protection for the victims of terrorism, especially the most vulnerable. In particular, CELAC condemned sexual violence and the destruction of cultural property. It was also deeply concerned at the growing threat posed by foreign

terrorist fighters, a problem that affected all Member States, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination.

30. The international community should redouble its efforts to combat the financing of terrorism through such methods as judicial cooperation, legal assistance and information exchange. United Nations entities should continue to assist States in fulfilling their international obligations in that regard. CELAC recognized the role of the United Nations in providing technical assistance to combat terrorism and welcomed its counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives.

31. Terrorism and transnational organized crime were not intrinsically or necessarily connected. The words "terrorism", "extremism", "radicalization" and "foreign fighters" continued to lack a clear legal definition. Achieving an international legal definition of those terms was a necessary precondition for further strengthening the rule of law both nationally and internationally. The international community could not afford to postpone indefinitely the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to overcome the obstacles to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the subject. A clear legal regime would strengthen the rule of law in countering international terrorism.

32. CELAC remained committed to working for the prompt finalization of a comprehensive convention and of the convening of a high-level conference. It urged Member States to show flexibility in resolving all pending issues by the end of the current session of the General Assembly, particularly in the context of the relevant working group of the Sixth Committee.

33. **Mr. Jaiteh** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the African States unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed. It could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and was a flagrant violation of international law. Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States was a non-derogable obligation. The African Group welcomed the convening of the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and hoped that it would continue to be held on a biannual basis in conjunction with the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, following consultation with Member States. It welcomed the outcome of the sixth review of the Strategy, addressing, in particular, issues relating to the return of foreign terrorist fighters and the exacerbation of extremist narratives. The Group reiterated its support for the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and looked forward to working with it and with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to ensure delivery of the necessary capacity-building to African States, upon their request.

34. The Group reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, while stressing that such a convention should not deny peoples their right to self-determination. The Group stood ready to work with other delegations to achieve a consensus and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to decide on an international response to terrorism should be given serious consideration. The Group also reiterated its willingness to work with other delegations in continuing to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It looked forward to the full implementation of that Strategy and urged the United Nations and donor countries to assist Member States in meeting their obligations in that regard.

35. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism and remained committed to preventing and combating that scourge. The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force in 2002 and a plan of action for its implementation had been adopted the same year. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism established by the African Union, and the African Union Mission in Somalia, provided Member States with training and other forms of capacity-building to help them address terrorism-related issues and fulfil their regional and international obligations in that regard.

36. The financing of terrorism was a matter of great concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms. The Group therefore urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. The Group also called upon Member States to prevent perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts from abusing refugee status for the purposes of terrorism and to ascertain, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker had not planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts. In addition, Member States should work together to develop and implement effective counter-narrative strategies, including through the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives.

37. More attention must be given to further strengthening inter-State counter-terrorism cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available for apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. The African Group accordingly welcomed initiatives to encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in combating terrorism. It appreciated the Trans Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, developed by the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the United States Government's Africa Center for Strategic Studies; it also welcomed the establishment and operationalization in Djibouti of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa. Such initiatives were important ways of strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches to countering terrorism. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were hamstrung by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international community for assistance in that regard.

38. **Mr. Shaker** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the right to life, and contradicted the practices and principles of Islam. Terrorist acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security. OIC reiterated its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States and reaffirmed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. It strongly condemned any attempt to link Islam with terrorism as such attempts played into the hands of terrorists and promoted religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims. It reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and welcomed all international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

39. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to follow a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, repression, festering international disputes and political marginalization and alienation. It was also necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction. Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organizations. OIC reiterated the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction duly reflected in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

40. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. Member States should cooperate in banning the payment of ransoms demanded by terrorist groups. It was important to enhance capacity-building to assist Member States in implementing their obligations under United Nations resolutions by increasing the resources for United Nations entities and departments entrusted with that task and by enhancing bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer.

41. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to negotiating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need to make progress in that regard. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of the draft convention and its determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement by resolving the outstanding issues, including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts to be covered by the instrument. The Group once again called for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to arrive at an agreed definition of terrorism. The Group welcomed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, launched in September 2018, and encouraged all Member States that had not yet done so to sign the Code and thus work towards the overall goal of eliminating international terrorism.

42. **Mr. Ke** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that terrorist practices were unjustifiable and threatened human welfare by disrupting everyday life and instilling fear and anxiety among populations; they also

negatively impacted global economic prosperity and undermined efforts to achieve sustainable development for the global community. ASEAN remained fully committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

43. To address the continuing threat of terrorism, a comprehensive approach was required, led by the United Nations. ASEAN accordingly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and endorsed the view expressed during the sixth biennial review in June 2018 that it was vital to strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States in implementing the Strategy. In that context, the international community must avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and take into account country-specific differences. While the Strategy allowed for the necessary flexibility and encouraged the development of common approaches between the parties, implementation would be further improved through the promotion of information exchange among Member States and the sharing of technical assistance at all levels of implementation.

44. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism between ASEAN and Australia in March 2018 promoted regional security by ensuring close cooperation between the parties, including through enhanced technical and regulatory assistance on issues such as electronic evidence, financial intelligence and the countering of online radicalization. Member States were encouraged to engage in such closer cooperation to ensure a safe and prosperous world for all. ASEAN therefore welcomed the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in June 2018; it had offered an opportunity for the timely exchange of best practices and had enabled top-ranking counter-terrorism officials to form invaluable personal connections.

45. ASEAN recognized the important leadership provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism which, by enhancing coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, ensured the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. ASEAN appreciated the efforts of the Task Force, as well as those of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and other relevant United Nations bodies to provide counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States and it encouraged all partners to redouble their efforts in that regard.

46. The fight against terrorism must be waged in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the principles of independence and sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in their domestic affairs. Terrorism could not and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. The States members of ASEAN would continue their efforts to achieve consensus on the outstanding issues impeding the achievement of an effective draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, so as to ensure a safe, peaceful and prosperous world for all.

47. **Ms. Van Rijssen** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Union's comprehensive approach to preventing and combating terrorism respected the rule of law and international law, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. The European Union condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that those responsible for terrorist acts must be held accountable.

48. The European Union and its member States were fully committed to combating the evolving terrorist threat in Europe and beyond. Terrorist groups were now attempting to radicalize and recruit young people, including those who were not marginalized, in all European Union countries. States therefore had to reconsider their integration models and work to address the needs of their peoples in a more systematic way, including by building community resilience through engagement at the local level. The cross-border dimension of the terrorist threat was evolving, as foreign terrorist fighters left conflict zones in Iraq, Syria and Libya to return to their home countries or relocate to other States. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had responded to its loss of territory in Syria and Iraq by transforming itself into a covert network, and both ISIL and Al-Qaida remained active. There were also concerns about the emergence of new domestic terrorist threats, facilitated by the misuse of the Internet.

49. To address both international and domestic threats, States members of the European Union were strengthening law enforcement, improving information exchange, working to prevent the exploitation of the Internet for terrorist purposes and cutting off sources of terrorist financing. Legal and operational measures must also be taken to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, collect and share information about such travel,

and adopt a balanced approach to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. The role of women and children returning from conflict zones, and that of victims of terrorism, should be given particular attention in order to avoid long-term security threats. The provision of assistance to victims of terrorism and their families was an integral part of European Union counter-terrorism efforts. At the international level, the European Union was working with countries in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Western Balkans, and Central, South and South-East Asia to help build capacities, encourage mutual learning and find areas for cooperation, and had placed counter-terrorism and security experts in European Union delegations to support those efforts.

50. The European Union supported a whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and, in that connection, called for strengthened collaboration and cooperation among Governments, the private sector and civil society. By embracing human rights and the rule of law and working to eliminate corruption, Governments could create an enabling environment for local and national authorities and civil society to work together. The European Union continued to work closely with international partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the Financial Action Task Force in support of global efforts to combat terrorism.

51. The European Union and its member States fully supported the role of the United Nations in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism and were committed to strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation. In that connection, they welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 concerning the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had provided an opportunity to strengthen consensus and refocus international attention on emerging and evolving issues. In light of the consensus that terrorism must not be tolerated under any circumstances, confirmed by the adoption of the resolution, it was necessary to address all emerging threats, including those posed by the misuse of information and communication technologies and by the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters. The European Union and its member States were encouraged by the commitment of the United Nations system to work towards a system-wide approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. In that regard, it welcomed the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED, which should work in close cooperation and coordination, within their distinct mandates, in their efforts to align United Nations technical and capacity-building assistance with the needs identified by CTED.

52. The Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations as a whole, had embraced effective and efficient coordination within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and other international organizations and forums. The United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States had provided an opportunity to create linkages and foster a spirit of systematic cooperation. The impact of the future work of the United Nations system should be monitored and evaluated to ensure that a strong and efficient United Nations drove global efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent terrorism through a balanced approach to the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

53. The European Union fully supported the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and welcomed the recent appointment of a new Ombudsperson. The European Union remained committed to strengthening due process and ensuring clear and fair procedures under all sanctions regimes.

54. The European Union called on all States Members of the United Nations to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and ratify and implement all United Nations legal instruments on counter-terrorism. It remained committed to the elaboration and successful conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

55. The European Union reiterated its concern that the resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism that was regularly considered by the Sixth Committee overlapped to a certain extent with the negotiations taking place in the General Assembly in plenary towards a resolution to review implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

56. **Ms. Neilson** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that collective efforts by the international community had resulted in real progress being made against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. However, returning or relocating foreign terrorist fighters posed a new kind of threat, and ISIL was working to build networks and increase its influence outside the Middle East, in some instances by exploiting State fragility and local grievances. The expanding influence of ISIL in South-East Asia gave cause for concern.

57. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to efforts to combat terrorism and were strong supporters of the role of the United Nations in that regard. The three delegations took note of the efforts made by the United Nations system since the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and continued to support the holistic and prevention-oriented approach set out in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. They welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which had strengthened the measures available to counter the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters, particularly its emphasis on capacity-building and on the need for States to take a whole-of-government approach and involve civil society in the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. Building on the framework for cooperation established in that resolution, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, together with the United Kingdom and the United States of America, had undertaken to provide capacity-building for States in the areas of border security and the tracking and sharing of information concerning returning foreign terrorist fighters and local terrorist networks.

58. The three delegations also welcomed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 72/284, in which Member States had reaffirmed the Strategy's four-pillar approach and stressed the importance of keeping the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of new threats and evolving trends. They welcomed the references in the resolution to the threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, although they were disappointed that it did not contain stronger language in relation to the role of gender and the rights of women and children in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. It was also regrettable that the General Assembly had not recognized in the resolution the important role that civil society could play in building resilience in communities and advancing government efforts to protect human rights while countering terrorism.

59. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to working with other Member States to develop coordinated and effective measures to counter international terrorism. They encouraged all Member States to ratify and implement the various international instruments concerning international terrorism and to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. It was essential to transpose international obligations into domestic law and strengthen international cooperation among national law enforcement agencies. The implementation of States' obligations under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and subsequent resolutions, would help Member States to effectively investigate and prosecute terrorist acts. Australia, Canada and New Zealand acknowledged the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED to provide targeted assistance to help States fulfil those obligations.

60. All actions taken to combat international terrorism must fully respect the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. Moreover, counter-terrorism laws must not impede the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict.

61. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to working closely with other Member States at the bilateral, regional and international levels to counter terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms, including violent extremist messaging, by sharing best practices and preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. States must cooperate in the development of effective, targeted measures to respond to the continuously evolving terrorist threat.

62. **Mr. Hattrem** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that terrorist and violent extremist groups continued to find new ways to carry out attacks, finance their activities, spread propaganda and recruit new fighters to their ranks. ISIL, Al-Qaida and home-grown terrorists remained a global security threat, as their ideologies were in conflict with the shared values of peace, security, human rights and the rule of law.

63. The Nordic countries were playing an important role in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Although ISIL had suffered substantial territorial losses in Syria and Iraq, it still had the capacity to recruit members and the determination to push its agenda forward. Moreover, the underlying factors that had led to the group's rise had yet to be addressed. In that connection, inclusive political systems and solutions were crucial in order to prevent the resurgence of ISIL or the emergence of similar groups.

64. The global threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations required a global response, in which the United Nations must play a central role. The values of tolerance, pluralism and understanding should be embedded in societies, and all measures taken to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism must respect human rights and the rule of law. The sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had made it clear that the Strategy required States to ensure respect for human rights and international law, partner with civil society and local

communities, empower youth and promote gender equality. It was important to involve young people in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism, as they could play a significant role in preventing radicalization to violence.

65. It was also necessary to gain a better understanding of the issue of women and terrorism. Terrorist organizations used women as fighters, for recruitment and to perpetrate terrorist acts. However, women were also essential in efforts to counter violent extremism and their role in promoting counter-terrorism narratives in their communities should be supported. It was also important to promote and protect women's enjoyment of human rights and to include women's voices, experiences and leadership in policy development.

66. Terrorism could not be tackled through military and security means alone; the approach should involve the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The root causes and upstream factors of violent extremism must be addressed and responses to them must be based on the rule of law. In order for the United Nations to respond effectively to the current challenges, it must streamline and coordinate core activities in areas such as conflict prevention, development and education.

67. The Nordic countries were members of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, which was seeking to promote the institutionalization of the prevention of violent extremism throughout the United Nations system. They appreciated the fact that the Office of Counter-Terrorism had made the prevention of violent extremism an integral part of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. They also welcomed the development and adoption of action plans on preventing violent extremism by a number of Member States and regional organizations, with the support of the United Nations. The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism continued to serve as a key guiding document for the United Nations and its Member States.

68. The Nordic countries attached great importance to respect for human rights and international law in counter-terrorism efforts. In that regard, the Security Council had repeatedly underscored not only that States had a duty to fulfil their international obligations but that failure to do so increased radicalization to violence and fostered a sense of impunity. Similarly, in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had placed human rights at the centre of the effort to combat terrorism and emphasized that counter-terrorism measures must comply with international human rights law.

69. An agreed international definition of terrorism would enhance the international community's ability to combat terrorism while upholding international law, and would facilitate stronger international cooperation on counter-terrorism. The Nordic countries therefore supported the work towards the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

70. **Mr. Al-Jufairi** (Qatar) said that, in recent times, concerted international action had eliminated most of the military and material capacities of terrorist groups, put an end to their cross-border reach and impaired their ability to recruit. Those successes had been possible only because the international community had realized the scale of the threat. It must now improve its coordination with a view to definitively eradicating terrorism. That goal could be achieved only by complying with the relevant international conventions, implementing the resolutions adopted by the international community, finding solutions to conflicts, bringing an end to foreign occupation, recognizing the right of peoples to self-determination, curbing State terrorism, and providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States confronting terrorism. Human rights violations and the absence of the rule of law could create conditions conducive to terrorism, especially when the international response was belated or hesitant. Counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with international law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, refugee law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Terrorism must not be used as a pretext to harm other States or to manufacture crises for political gain. His delegation wished to commend the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, CTED and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

71. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed more than ever, and Qatar would continue to be an active participant in negotiations towards its elaboration. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. A distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination.

72. The Qatari authorities had continued to cooperate with the United Nations counter-terrorism entities and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Qatar was a member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and had concluded numerous bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism under the aegis of the United Nations. It was at the forefront of regional efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and was updating its legislation in line with international counter-terrorism efforts.

73. **Mr. Alavi** (Liechtenstein) said that his country condemned all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever perpetrated, and remained committed to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the United Nations. It had ratified all United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and continued to take all necessary measures, in accordance with the rule of law and applicable human rights standards, to prevent the abuse of its financial institutions for terrorist purposes.

74. Member States, and the Organization itself, must uphold human rights when undertaking measures to combat terrorist financing. Respect for human rights, including due process rights, was not only an obligation under international law but also an essential element of effective counter-terrorism action. Liechtenstein therefore highly valued the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and welcomed the appointment of the new Ombudsperson. His delegation continued to call for the mandate of the Ombudsperson to be extended to other sanctions regimes and for the necessary resources and support to be provided to the Office.

75. Although they were often no more than an afterthought, measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the basis for the fight against terrorism. Governments actively involved in that fight should beware of contributing to outcomes opposed to the values they were seeking to uphold. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 concerning the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a positive step that should be followed by efforts to achieve a more balanced approach to the implementation of the Strategy. In particular, much more could be done to prevent violent extremism. One of the greatest challenges in that regard was to effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. It was important for young people to be at the centre of efforts to implement the Strategy, since they tended to be the most vulnerable to radicalization.

76. The Sixth Committee had made important contributions to collective counter-terrorism efforts, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions on the matter. Following those efforts, the Committee should streamline its work accordingly and avoid a duplication of its discussions in various forums. His delegation therefore reiterated its call for the Committee to, at the very least, take up the suggestion by the European Union to discuss the agenda item only every two years.

77. **Mr. Horna** (Peru) said that his country, which had suffered from the violence unleashed by terrorist groups for more than two decades, strongly condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stood in solidarity with all victims. His Government supported all multilateral action, including through the General Assembly and the Security Council, to address the scourge of terrorism in a systematic and balanced manner, in compliance with international law. It was essential to gain a better understanding of the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime and to take those connections into account in counter-terrorism efforts.

78. ISIL, which constituted the main terrorist threat at the current time, was transforming itself into a covert global organization. While it had suffered military losses, it maintained a significant presence in Iraq and Syria, and its affiliates were active in other parts of the Middle East, and also in Africa and Asia. Member States must take steps to prevent the attempts of ISIL to maintain its global influence by using the Internet, in particular social media, to recruit, mobilize and direct followers. They must also address the serious threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters by adopting effective prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration policies that respected international law and human rights. In that connection, it was important to consider how to prevent prisons from becoming breeding grounds for radicalization and terrorist recruitment, and how to address the threat posed by former fighters released from prison. The sharing of best practices would be useful in that regard. Steps must also be taken to prevent the financing of terrorism and, in particular, of ISIL. Efforts to strengthen financial intelligence systems should be complemented by measures to trace cash, since ISIL most often moved its resources in that form. His Government, convinced that crimes committed by terrorists must not go unpunished, supported all initiatives aimed at improving the collection of evidence in conflict zones and digital evidence.

79. While the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represented a step forward, the moral authority of the United Nations was being undermined by the failure to reach an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The conclusion of a convention would be more than a symbolic achievement of an agreed definition of terrorism. By enshrining the principle of "extradite or prosecute", the convention would strengthen accountability and the fight against impunity, as there would be no safe haven

for terrorists. The convention would also help to harmonize domestic and international legislation and prevent States from using counter-terrorism laws against groups, persons and activities in ways that violated human rights and due process. Furthermore, it would ensure that there was appropriate interaction between the two separate regimes of international counter-terrorism law and international humanitarian law. Member States should therefore resolve all outstanding issues preventing the elaboration of a convention, while also duly implementing the 19 existing international counter-terrorism instruments.

80. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Colombia) said that his country condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was unacceptable and unjustifiable in any circumstances, and could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group. In order for global counter-terrorism efforts to achieve the desired results, they must be in strict compliance with international law.

81. In its resolution 72/284, the General Assembly had stressed the need to implement measures to prevent violent extremism. It was also important to address issues related to foreign terrorist fighters, combat the financing of terrorism and prevent terrorist groups from obtaining weapons of mass destruction. His Government was developing a national strategy to counter violent extremism, in line with the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Work undertaken thus far in that regard had revealed a need to avoid limiting the scope of research to religious radicalization; other types of radicalization must also be taken into account.

82. The current global context of international conflict, migrant crises and the increasing power of transnational criminal organizations was making it easy for terrorist organizations to diversify their methods, logistical corridors and financing sources. His delegation called on Member States and international and regional organizations to study in depth the linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism, which were referred to only generally in resolution 72/284, as terrorist and transnational criminal organizations were currently able to take advantage of areas that were not being given due attention. It was also necessary to strengthen States' capacities to prevent terrorism through investigation and prosecution; improve international cooperation; and provide States with the technical assistance they needed.

83. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism against peoples seeking the right to self-determination. Pakistan had been a victim of terrorism for decades, but its resolve to defeat terrorism had not been shaken. Thanks to her Government's multi-pronged approach, terrorist groups had been dismantled and dislodged from the national territory. Since the threat was now primarily based, and supported from, outside the country, her Government was implementing a comprehensive border management system along the western border of Pakistan with a view to preventing the cross-border movement of militants and illicit trafficking in arms and drugs, while at the same time facilitating legitimate cross-border trade.

84. The hard-earned stability enjoyed by Pakistan had been obtained through a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism. Recognizing that terrorist groups could not be defeated by military means alone, her Government had implemented a national action plan that included work with communities to develop counter-narratives, a focus on youth, the enhancement of regional cooperation, and compliance with international obligations. Her Government stood ready to share the valuable experience that it had gained with other Member States.

85. The United Nations was uniquely positioned to build consensus among Member States in dealing with the diverse challenges of terrorism. The reform of the counter-terrorism architecture had already yielded positive results. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017) had given the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED a robust mandate and established direct links between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED. All of those measures had strengthened the ability of the United Nations to assess the implementation of United Nations resolutions by Member States. However, a robust capacity-building mechanism to help States fulfil their obligations was still lacking. To resolve that problem, two issues needed to be addressed, namely the increasingly donor-driven nature of United Nations capacity-building assistance and the lack of a steady financing mechanism for the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It was also important to address the root causes of terrorism, including political injustice, economic and social marginalization, festering disputes and unresolved conflicts. Chronic instability resulting from conflicts and military interventions had created fertile ground for terrorist groups to recruit members and spread their ideology; moreover, terrorists and their supporters were able to find safe havens in ungoverned conflict areas. While the United Nations was focused on improving technical measures, it must be borne in mind that extremist ideologies would never be defeated unless the underlying geopolitical dynamics were addressed.

86. Pakistan was in favour of a consensus-based, comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must be consistent with international humanitarian law and clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation. Malicious attempts to manipulate the international consensus against terrorism to justify the suppression of people struggling for the right of self-determination must never be permitted to succeed.

87. The General Assembly was the primary entity responsible for establishing counter-terrorism norms. However, its role was being undermined by the proliferation of informal forums established to launch new ideas and themes that were then brought before the General Assembly for rubber-stamping. Her delegation hoped that the annual resolution on the elimination of international terrorism would provide clarity on that issue. The resolution had received only technical updates at the past three sessions, but her delegation hoped that a number of substantive changes would be made at the current session.

88. **Mr.** Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its origins or purposes. It was a proactive and effective participant in bilateral and international efforts to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism. The Sudan had ratified all international conventions on international terrorism, in addition to African and Arab regional conventions on the subject. The Sudan played an active part in the counter-terrorism strategies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

89. It was essential to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner. Primary responsibility for that process lay with Member States. The United Nations also had an important role to play in coordinating the provision of assistance to Member States at their request with a view to implementing the Strategy. The Sudan had taken several successful measures, including adopting legislation, tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism, building capacity and ensuring respect for human rights while combating terrorism.

90. The Sudan had shared with the counter-terrorism entities of the United Nations a draft national counter-terrorism strategy that focused on conflict prevention; good governance, human rights and the rule of law; engaging with local communities; empowering young people; fostering gender equality; empowering women; and promoting education, capacity-building, employment and strategic communications, notably through the Internet and social media. In order to tackle the conditions conducive to terrorism, his Government would work to promote security and social justice, alleviate poverty, strengthen social cohesion and promote the values of moderation and dialogue. The Sudan would also build its capacity to combat cybercrime, money-laundering and cross-border crime.

91. Although the resolution concerning the sixth review of the Strategy had been adopted by consensus, his delegation was concerned that certain States had sought to broaden the definition of violent extremism by introducing new paragraphs that would weaken State sovereignty and national ownership. The proposed new language hinted more or less explicitly at intervention in internal affairs; such language would sow dissension at a time when the international community needed to be united and resolute. As shown by paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/840), terrorism was being confused with violent extremism. It was essential to avoid and resolve such confusion between the two concepts. The international community must recognize the problem and discuss ways to address it. Moreover, some actors had focused disproportionately on one pillar of the Strategy, thereby undermining transparency and the added value of the other pillars. The international community should take a comprehensive and balanced approach, encompassing cultural and social dimensions as well as purely military solutions. The General Assembly was the organ best placed to face that challenge.

92. Countering terrorism and violent extremism entailed fighting poverty, achieving balanced and sustainable development, and strengthening dialogue between the North and the South. Developing States would need technical assistance in order to fulfil their functions on the basis of cooperation and mutual respect.

93. **Mr. Al Arsan** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that much of the information provided by Member States in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate terrorism (A/73/125) focused on actions taken to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from returning to their home countries, countries of residence or third States. In the course of the sixth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, his delegation had proposed several paragraphs drawing attention to the need to determine how the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters had emerged and to pinpoint the responsibility of certain members of the

international community, which had either colluded or failed to act. However, certain delegations had persistently rejected those proposals. The current threat could have been averted if Governments had activated early warning mechanisms and exchanged information, and if the international community had assumed its responsibility from the outset or heeded his Government's warnings that certain States were facilitating the flow of fighters into Syria and Iraq.

94. Because of the diverging views of Member States, the consensus underpinning the completion of the sixth biennial review had been based on politicized fudges and fixes. In particular, there had been considerable disagreement regarding the issue of violent extremism. Numerous delegations, supported by the Secretariat, had persistently sought to remove the issue from its agreed context, namely that the term should refer to violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In any event, there was no clear dividing line between religious or political extremism, on the one hand, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, on the other. Thousands of foreign terrorist fighters had been identified by the secret services of their home countries as dangerous extremists but somehow had not been classified as violent. However, their supposedly non-violent extremism had been one of the drivers of their radicalization and recruitment. They had left for Syria and Iraq in plain sight, and many would subsequently return to carry out attacks in their home countries, countries of residence or third States.

95. In the course of the review, many of the proposals made by delegations had drawn on language from the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council. The problem was not that those resolutions were flawed but that certain Member States lacked the political will to implement them or to use the sanctions mechanisms proactively, implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy or formulate a clear legal definition of terrorism. In that connection, he commended the efforts made by the delegation of Kazakhstan to secure the successful adoption of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism.

96. Practical proposals had been made concerning ways to tackle the use of the media, the Internet, social media and positions of religious authority to propagate terrorist ideology. Regrettably, certain delegations had opposed all of those proposals and continued to stand in the way of consensus regarding any international convention or mechanism that would monitor the use of the Internet for extremist discourse and incitement, the recruitment of terrorists and the financing of terrorism. Those delegations had invoked the principle of freedom of expression, but they were in fact motivated by petty political goals and economic interests, particularly their hegemony over global technology markets.

97. The structure and working methods of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre should be reformed with a view to ensuring transparency, inclusivity and good governance. Until those concerns had been addressed, the Syrian Arab Republic would continue to refrain from working with the Centre and would oppose any proposal to fund it from the regular budget of the United Nations.

98. His delegation appreciated the work of the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the outcomes of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 and 29 June 2018. The event had laid the foundations for a new approach to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. He hoped that the methods and programme for the next conference would be developed so as to ensure that experiences and best practices could be exchanged in an interactive manner. The Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a global network of counter-terrorism coordinators was an interesting one, but a thorough study would be required in order to ascertain which parties would be part of the network, what was meant by the exchange of sensitive information, what guarantees of confidentiality and security could be provided, and whether the network would be able to harmonize standards with regard to Member States' respect for the counter-terrorism resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

99. His country had extensive experience of combating armed terrorist groups and had compiled a database on the topic. That experience had come at a cost: innocent lives had been lost, the country's antiquities were being sold around the world, and national infrastructure had been damaged. Moreover, the Syrian Arab Republic remained under an unjust economic embargo imposed by those very States that had allowed thousands of foreign terrorist fighters to travel there and join ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Nusrah Front and associated groups. The Syrian Arab Republic was a founding member of the United Nations and was committed to implementing its resolutions on counter-terrorism. However, its cooperation and intelligence-sharing would be contingent on respect for its national sovereignty and independence.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.